

NEWS

As far as I am aware this is the first newsletter that has been produced by the Society. So here goes ...

Annual dinner : By popular request this is being held at Tredegar House once again. As you all know, the date is 19 April. We meet in the bar at 7.30 pm (or earlier) and dinner follows at 8pm.

Federation Convention : This is being held at the Selwyn Samuel Bowls Centre, Peoples Park, Llanelli on Saturday 13 May 1989. Doors open at 10.30 am. Admission is 25p by lucky number programme with at least 5 good prizes promised.

There will be 15 dealers plus a silent auction. For those who don't know, a silent auction involves you making a bid any time during the day. Your bid is then added to a list displayed on the wall. If anyone makes a higher bid, your bid is crossed out and you have to go back to the auction table to register another higher bid if you still want the lot. An approximate closing time (around 3pm in this case) for bids is set. Previous experience suggests that there will be very few (if any) bids on most lots but a few will be very popular. If you are after one of the popular lots it could be difficult to time your final bid (ask Margaret!). For this auction each Society has upto 20 lots with a minimum reserve of £3 a lot. We haven't put any in and it's now too late.

The competition entries (upto 5 adult and 3 junior per Society) are due in by 14 April. Judging will be on 22 April by David Sessions and Ian Bailey (who both judged last year) and one other. The judges will not be present on the day of the Convention. We have got 5 entries:

- Thematics - 1. Russian Aviation
- 2. Finland and Russia
- General - 3. Finland Definitives from 1975
- G.B. - 4. Official Overprints
- 5. FRAMA

This year there is an extra trophy, presented by John Beechey of Bridgend. It is a plaque for the most promising junior entry.

As 1989 is the 21st anniversary of the South Wales Federation, a special birthday convention card, rather like the one produced by Cardiff for last year's Autumn Day, will be available. If anyone can't get to the Convention but wants a card for their collection, please contact me.

Federation News : This year's Autumn Day is in Carmarthen on 14 October 1989. It will be held from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm at St Peters Church. Society tables will be available at £3 each. As a change, it is hoped to organise a meeting of the Welsh Philatelic Society at 2 pm. This will be of interest to anyone who collects Welsh postmarks and postal history. You don't have to be member to attend.

The BFF Congress is now booked for Cardiff in 1991. The dates are 19 to 22 September; the location Duffryn House just west of Cardiff. There will be a limit of 145 for accommodation and only around 20 day visitors can attend. Details have not been fixed. Norman Boscott of Bridgend is arranging a meeting this September to get things moving. Before then any suggestions for the programme would be welcomed. Each evening of a Congress is set aside for meetings of specialist societies, so if you are a member of one and would be willing to attend, or even display, Norman Boscott would like to know.

The BFF is organising an open day on 18 November 1989. Two members of the Federation (Norman Boscott and Neil Prior) will be attending. The aim is to find out what the BFF can do for local Federations such as ours. Any views?

Lapel badges were suggested by Vic many months ago. We raised the subject at the Federation AGM last year and something is now happening. Badges will be produced for sale to members through local societies at £2 each but only if there is sufficient interest.

Recent Meetings : On 1 March Gwen, Margaret, Martyn and I made the long trek north to Hereford. We all wore our leeks for this trip across the border to England. I kicked

off with Danish West Indies and Undated Cancellation of Denmark and was followed by Martyn with a selection of Fiji covers. After a break for tea Gwen continued with world-wide Frama labels and Margaret completed the evening with perfin. Hereford is quite a large Society with around 100 members but most join because of the stamp packet that they circulate. Only about 20 or 25 members attend meetings. The most notable success of our evening was the recruitment of a new member to Newport, Peter Coldrey.

Three days later, around 20 members and friends/family joined the Cardiff ^{Society} for the twice-yearly pilgrimage to Stampex. This time the coach was full, which means that Cardiff are almost certain to arrange a coach for the Autumn Stampex - 21 October 1989 is the date for your diaries.

I went along to Cardiff British Rail Society on 6 March and provided an evening of Faroe Islands material, most of which Newport members have seen already.

Competition night was on 8 March. The number of entries this year was disappointing, with a total of only 5 displays of the 16 sheets needed for the Convention competition and one other display of 8 sheets.

The 15 members who braved the elements on 22 March had a rare treat. Because of the refurbishment of our usual room, we were given the Council Chamber for the evening. It is far from ideal for displaying stamps but was certainly an impressive venue for the visit by the Bridgend Society. Earlier this year three of us visited Bridgend. For their return visit to us, no less than 10 of their members turned up - we were almost outnumbered. The batting order was:

Nigel McGaw - Queen Victoria examiners marks
Richard Buckland - a superb display of US air mails by a 17 year-old
Sarah Beechey - a lovely talk by one of the juniors on Captain Cook
John Beechey - Australia George V and newspaper cuttings of air pioneers
Ron Gregory - Albania (including some very unusual modern covers).

Joyce, Jess and Elsie produced a wonderful spread to round off the evening.

Future Meetings : With the refurbishment of our usual room continuing, we have had to make some changes to the programme for the end of the 1988/1989 season. Following the visit by the Cardiff Society (5 April) the meetings are:

19 April - Annual dinner at Tredegar House
3 May - Display of Rhodesia by the Secretary in Room 146 Civic Centre
17 May - AGM plus a short display of China by Norman Hargreaves at Elsie Myer's house (9 Bank Street, Newport)

Stamp and Postcard Fairs : The nearest fairs in the next few months are at Cardiff and Bristol but a few further afield may be worth a visit:

7 April - Dragon Fairs - Cardiff Central Hotel
15 April - Solihull Central Library
23 April - Symes Fair - Bristol Hawthorns Hotel
28-30 April - Showpex - Bristol Watershed (free tickets available)
29 April - 3 counties federation - Worcester College of Higher Education
1 May - Edwardian Postcards - Cheltenham Pump Room
7 May - Symes Fair - Cheltenham Hayden Court Hotel
5 May Dragon Fairs - Cardiff Central Hotel
27 May (to be confirmed) - Ann Scott Postcards - Bristol Transport House
9 June - Dragon Fairs - Cardiff Central Hotel

Members Interests : Some time ago a list of members interests was circulated. I have now updated it. Could you please check it and also tell me if you belong to any other societies so that I can add that information to the list.

Future events : Apart from the convention, stamp fairs and the dinner, a few other things are in the pipeline:

. I am hoping to arrange a visit to the National Postal Museum towards the end of 1989. The Post Office has agreed. All we have to do is to agree a date and work out how we are going to get to London.

- . I have contacted the Gwent Education Department about doing something with the local schools to encourage juniors to collect. As yet there has been no response but I will keep you informed.
- . On 27 April, Tony Pearson will be visiting the Bridgend Society to display British Colonials. Apparently he is an entertaining presenter.
- . Is anybody interested in a slide show - the Nepal and Tibetan PS have slides available for the cost of postage - does anybody know of others? I know that we had a very interesting display of German material by Gwen's friend Roger Liens last Summer.
- . Robson Lowe is willing to loan displays of postal history, forgeries or revenues to Societies for the cost of postage.

AGM : It's nearly time for the AGM. Please start thinking about it and how we can attract more members. Are there any suggestions for evenings (including names of visiting speakers). Martyn has given me a name and I have now arranged for Bryan Jones of Solihull to show us some Fiji material next season but other names are still welcome.

Are there any changes that you would like to see?

- . Should we join the Federation packet circuit again? We are the only Society other than the Welsh who do not join in.
- . Should we join the BFF - the membership fee is around £16 a year?
- . Should we change the annual competition? We could hold a Federation competition evening instead when the best 5 adult and 3 junior entries go through.

Postscript : I would like to repeat this occasionally. But I will need information from members eg on special postmarks in the area. Neil Prior is going to produce a Newsletter for the Federation and wants contributions by 11 August. You don't have to write it down; just tell me and I will do the rest.

John Perry
Secretary
2 April 1989

NEWPORT AND GWENT PHILATELIC SOCIETY - 1989

Members' interests:

John Gunn - British Indian Ocean Territory, Mauritius, Flight covers
Ken Wilmott - Cocos, Christmas & Norfolk Islands, PNG, BAT, AAT, Ross
Channel Islands
Elsie Myer - Xmas, Roses, Newport postcards
Margaret Harding- Perfins
Fred Scott - De La Rue Key Plates, GB, Malta, India
Joyce Davies - Thematics (flowers, butterflies, fish, animals, insects,
railways, ships)
Jess Brace - Switzerland, Channel Islands, IOM
Gwen Hussey - FRAMA, metermarks, Germany, thematics (ships, birds, flowers)
Martyn Britton - Fiji, Newport PH, postage due, New Zealand, Australia, slogan p
Bill Osborn - France, Belgium, GB, commonwealth officials, UN, Switzerland,
Nigeria, music thematics
Norman Hargreaves-Switzerland, Liberia, GB Machins, China
Ivor Bennett - Hungary, USA, German States and Colonies
John Perry - Scandinavia, Rhodesias
Alan Perry - GB
Vic Sheppard - Aviation, Russia, Railways, USA, old commonwealth issues
Peter Butcher - Canada (inc provinces), Bermuda, Gibraltar, NewZealand
Terry Patten - GB
Andrew Jefferies- GB, railway letter stamps
Malcolm Edwards - GB, general world issues
Ken Jones - GB
Roy Bentley - Lundy, Churchill thematics
Peter Coldrey - GB